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FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 26, 1954

Following our conversations last night, we dispatched this morning telegrams setting forth the approximate timetable for various actions if our objective of a debate in the National Assembly on EDC before the Easter recess is to be realized. As regards what Germany must do, namely an immediate response by Adenauer to Bidault's letter evincing his desire to meet Bidault this week before Bidault's departure for Greece on April 9, I telephoned Jim Conant. I reached him in Berlin, to which our cables on this subject had not been forwarded. He was in complete accord with what I wished to do and suggested I send a personal message to the Chancellor via Messrs. Dowling and Hallstein suggesting strongly to Adenauer his following such a course. I talked to Dowling, who promised to take it up this afternoon with Hallstein.

Harold Callender came to see me. He is concerned over the same points that we mentioned in our telegrams of today. I was not at liberty to tell him of the Secretary's letter to Bidault to which we are anxiously awaiting a reply.

Ted Achilles came to see me in this same connection. The Embassy apparently feels the parliamentary situation to be such that American assurances must be received before the French Government will be able to fix a date for the debate. I disagree with this policy and sent the following message to the Department on the subject:

"Sent: SECSTATE WASHINGTON. COLED 159. NIACT. R

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"Re COLED 157, would like make following personal comment: I believe any US declaration on subject maintenance of US forces in Europe and NATO policy should be communicated few days in advance through Hughes to NATO Council and through Conant to Adenauer. It is very important to have other NATO partners

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDG/MR

REVIEWED BY CEC

DATE 7-1-81

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help us to prevent French from taking unreasonable position. My fear is that once again the French Government, without definitely engaging itself, wishes us first to make explicit to it our position on these matters so that it may then avail itself of our declaration as a basis for a negotiation with us on a bilateral basis.

"If we were dealing solely with Bidault I might be inclined to view this affair in a different light. In fact we are attempting to satisfy a profoundly divided cabinet. I believe we will encounter many difficulties if we try to accommodate such a Presidential statement to the uncertainties and contradictions of French domestic politics. Moreover, a negotiation with the French is, if I am correct in my premises, not only undesirable but dangerous. Laniel, Bidault, Alphand et al are almost totally ignorant of our constitutional limitations on the exercise of Executive discretion and power. If we negotiate with them bilaterally on a subject which lies wholly within the competence of the US Government, they may well use such an opportunity to demand the impossible and thereby to excuse themselves for not proceeding vigorously to implement their own declared policy on EDC. BRUCE."

Ed Martin, Hillenbrand, Tomlinson and myself met tonight to consider tactics to be adopted concerning occupation costs, et cetera, which are under consideration in the NATO Council. We hope discussions in this regard can be handled in such a way as not to complicate the issue of a French vote on the EDC Treaty. Martin was, as usual, very helpful and inventive, and he will try to dispose, at least temporarily, of this issue without its becoming public.

At 9:30 tonight Alphand came to dinner alone with me. He had just left Bidault. He reports him as being tired and somewhat discouraged. It seems his desire to have the EDC debate before Easter has encountered considerable

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opposition. I gather, although Alphand is too loyal to be explicit about it, Bidault has not been able, or perhaps willing, to pin down Laniel on this question. I gave Hervé a copy of our theoretical working-paper schedule.

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